



## OVER 5 MILES OF SCENIC SHORELINE DRIVE

# AMERICA'S LARGEST CITY-OWNED ISLAND PARK

master plan for Belle Isle's transformation. By 1889, visitors could enjoy the park via the island's first wooden bridge. Olmstead also helped select Cass Gilbert's design for the mammoth Scott Fountain, chosen over 93 other entries in a nationwide competition. Among Gilbert's other achievements was the design of the U.S. Supreme Court Building in Washington, D.C. Between 1903 and 1930, the Casino, the Aquarium, Whitcomb Conservatory, and Livingstone Lighthouse were designed by Albert Kahn, who was also selected for the General Motors and Fisher buildings. The nearly half-mile long bridge that takes you to Belle Isle today was originally constructed in 1923 and a meticulous renovation was completed in 1986. In 1942, the bridge was renamed after General Douglas MacArthur. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Once on the island, you may get around by car or take a leisurely walk along the many miles of trails, paths and roadways that connect all of Belle Isle's points of interest. The island is situated on America's busiest inland waterway and provides spectacular views of Detroit, Canada, freighter traffic and the Ambassador Bridge. Detroit's city fathers purchased the 983-acre island in 1879 for \$200,000, against the opposition of those who thought the price was too high. They elected to retain the name Belle Isle (beautiful island) by which the property was popularly known. In 1883, the designer of New York City's Central Park, Frederick Law Olmstead, created the

## MORE TO SEE AND DO



Giant floral clock entryway / Giant slide / 200-acre woodlands / Fishing piers and bulkheads / Bicycle and nature trails / Food concessions at Athletic Shelter and Kid's Row / Handball/racquetball/basketball courts

/ Chip-N-Putt Family Golf Center / Driving range/putting greens / Nine baseball diamonds / Ten lighted tennis courts / Cinder running track / Half-mile swimming beach / Paddleboats / Historical monuments / Picnic shelters / Water slide at beach / World Cup Soccer Field / Kid's Row / Peace and quiet **IN WINTER:** Sledding / Plenty of ducks / The Conservatory is open year-round.

## SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Whether your interests lie in nature, physical fitness, history, architecture, botany, athletics or marine life, you'll make fascinating new discoveries on Belle Isle. Come alone or bring your whole group...there's definitely something for everyone.

Admission and most of the park's attractions are free.

## VISIT US SOON

We'd like the chance to make Belle Isle your most pleasant memory of our city.



For more information regarding the park, please call **(313) 628-2081**





# BELLE ISLE

## Detroit's Island Gem

### Spend an Hour / Spend a Day!

No visit to Detroit is too short to enjoy the splendor of historic Belle Isle, the crown jewel of Detroit's public park system. Located close to the hub of downtown, travel time to Belle Isle by car or bus is about five minutes.



- 1 / Nancy Brown Peace Tower
- 2 / The Casino
- 3 / Flynn Skating Pavilion
- 4 / Chip-N-Putt & Practice Facility
- 5 / Scott Memorial Fountain
- 6 / Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory
- 7 / Kid's Row

1

#### Nancy Brown Peace Tower (Carillon Tower)

85-foot carillon tower dedicated to the newspaper columnist who raised most of the building fund from readers.

**Computer Automated Performances**

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#### Chip-N-Putt and Practice Facility

Come and hit a few balls at our state-of-the-art practice facility with a short putting course and mini-course or visit our Chip-N-Putt Family Golf Center where you can play and learn the game of golf in a fun family environment.

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#### Scott Memorial Fountain

A shrewd investor, James Scott bequeathed his entire fortune for this huge, carved, white marble fountain. Worth every penny. Colored light and water shows presented from dusk until 11 p.m.

**Fountain operated Daily, Memorial Day - Late Sept.**

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#### Kids' Row

Calling all Kids! Kids' Row is a magical place that includes a half-acre complex of brightly colored play areas for children 12 and under and a brand new Giant Slide. Nestled in-between is a new family-friendly comfort station with concession stand. The Kids' Kingdom includes slides, climbing surfaces, animal sculptures and even a space capsule merry-go-round.

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#### The Casino

Wonderful rental facility: Come and enjoy the beautiful architecture and great scenery. Whether you are hosting a wedding reception, baby shower or business meeting, your event will be memorable. Year-round rental.

**(313) 628-2069**



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#### Flynn Pavilion

Thanks to a grant from the Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Program of the National Park Service, Belle Isle's Flynn Pavilion is totally restored. Visitors are able to rent paddleboats in the summer and enjoy Lake Takoma.

**(313) 628-2069**

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#### Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory

Patterned after Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, permanent displays of cacti, ferns, palms and one of the largest collections of orchids in the country.

**Available for Weddings  
10 a.m.-5 p.m. Daily,  
Including Holidays**



Photo Courtesy of Ken Cobb/SmithGroup JJR